increasd this year by a number of airlines including Indian Airlines and foreign carriers to cater to this additional demand.

(c) No such proposal is available with the Government.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Allotment of land for displaced persons from BALCO

†*233. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allotted 1200 acres of lands on lease to the displaced persons from BALCO;

(b) whether the Sterlite Industries have set up a power plant and a sub-station for its private use on the said land; and

(c) if so, the details of action being taken to evict Sterlite Industries from the said land?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per information made available by the State Government of Chhattisgarh, no land has been allotted to the displaced persons from BALCO.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that it has proceeded against BALCO for reported encroachment on 1036.52 acres of land wherein the expansion project of BALCO is in progress. Since BALCO has obtained a stay order from Hon'ble High Court of Chhattisgarh, the State Government has stayed its action regarding the eviction of BALCO from the encroached land.

Promotion of CNG

*234 SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will encourage the use of environment friendly fuel Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in private/commercial vehicles also;

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken to facilitate supply and distribution of CNG in the cities of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is having any plan for providing cost effective changes in the engines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is being encouraged as environment-friendly fuel for private as well as commercial vehicles. At present, CNG is being supplied in a big way in Delhi and Mumbai, where 133 and 109 CNG outlets respectively have been set up, which are catering to the fuel requirements of more than 94,000 and 1,54,000 vehicles respectively. Some CNG outlets have also been opened up in Noida in U.P., Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh and some cities in Gujarat. Subject to availability of natural gas and necessary infrastructure, CNG is proposed to be introduced in various cities in the country in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) CNG conversion kits are available in the market for retrofitment of petrol and diesel vehicles to CNG. These kits are type approved by Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)-PuneA/ehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE)-Ahmednagar. At present, there are about 6 makes of CNG kits approved for CNG conversion of LMVs and about 6 makes for 3 wheelers. About 9 CNG kits are also available for CNG conversion of LCVs and MCVs. CNG supply companies have been interacting with CNG kit suppliers/retrofitters/workshops with a view to increasing the availability of CNG kits. With the increase in availability of approved kits in the market, the cost of CNG conversion is likely to come down.

Fixation of Gas prices

†*235. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI;
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain norms have been prescribed for fixation of selling price of gas in the country; if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.